

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

July 11, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Smith.

Mayor Guinta requested a moment of silent prayer be held asking that everyone keep in mind Fernando Martirena the 9 year old boy who was tragically struck and killed by a vehicle this week.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Nasir Arush, 104 Dunbarton Road #7, Manchester, NH (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

I work the Somali Development Center based in Boston. I'm here tonight to ask the Mayor and the Board to defer voting for the recommendations in the report. I have great respect for the members and are very committed about improving the lives of refugees in Manchester. The reason I am asking to defer voting is that more information needs to be included about the services and their contributions too. When you get the entire picture then we can come in with good recommendations. I consider this report the beginning of the process. Please make this process inclusive to all agencies that provide services for the refugees and the city must organize a meeting for all stakeholders. The Somali Development Center is one of the biggest service providers for the Manchester School District, Health Department and Welfare for language assistance. The SDC was very successful in helping in Manchester. The last three months we assisted 25 Somali Manchester residents getting jobs. We are working very closely with residents in this community. We had a meeting with the Mayor three months

ago and the Mayor showed us a lot of interest and commitment. Thank you, Mayor Guinta. In Manchester we have well-qualified, competent people that show passion in helping their neighbors. You can count on us and thank you for giving us this opportunity. Thank you.

David Murray, 54 Quarry Drive, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

I'm here to speak of the 1902 Weston Fire Station. I responded to Mike Duffy's request to help save the fire station. Immediately obvious to me that the city did not need to destroy the fire station. I was intrigued that the issue had become a problem. What is the problem here? The Fire Department had declared it unusable and obsolete 25 years ago, the city had stopped maintaining the building 14 years ago, new Aldermen run for election are pledging to save it, demolishing the building would cost the city money, saving it would cost the city nothing but bring in tax revenue. Private funds could be available to the building...a single-family house...land was not needed. There had been no informed answer from the public sector as to why it cannot be saved. It seems to me that demolition is only supported by fuzzy reasoning. It's too bad no one stepped up sooner. It's a shame that the city neglected its responsibilities, it's too bad it couldn't be developed as a museum, it's too bad that it has to go to a private individual. I'm not a preservationist...I trade. But, I see potential...this is probably not an auditorium so I'll be frank I've been involved in restoration on Brook Street, Chestnut Street as far as renovating two shabby apartments, an old barn. I rehabilitated a barn, I restored a gatehouse, Straw School...I renovated the building into office space. At Chestnut and Lowell Street I renovated the old gas company garage...the Bedford Village Inn I restored the house and barn and landscaped the grounds. I had probably bought more used brick at twice the price of new brick. This is a business decision...value shared by informed leadership. In Connecticut, Greenwich, in Rhode Island, Newport...in Massachusetts, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Boston...in New Hampshire, Portsmouth, Peterborough, Walpole, New London. Take city-wide responsibility...this is not a ward issue like sidewalks and stop signs...preserving a 104 year old fire house. The solution I'm asking, we're asking is not some small favor...this issue is saving a city treasure.

Peter Leonard, 620 Silver Street #5, Manchester, NH stated:

I came here tonight to offer my assistance on bringing money into the city revenue by holding the state olympics for the regional for Special Education Olympics and bringing in the Junior Goodwill Games to Manchester. We've got facilities in Manchester...do it now that way we'll bring money in and maybe bring new students to New Hampshire and Manchester for the best education in the state...we need revenue to offset the taxes on houses and buildings. This way we'll bring in money from other countries to help us out which we need that the government keeps giving to them that we don't get any money back from these other countries that owe us money and when the federal government cuts the budget everybody in the state has to cut...they have to cut from the state level down to the cities and towns and the programs that are mandated the towns and cities have to pick it up. We need legislators at both levels that's willing to fight to fully fund special ed and children

left behind. Another thing...if that club goes in you're going to have legalized crime in the city which I don't want. Thank you.

Ann Dancy, 261 Sheep David Road (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

I'm the Director of Refugee Services for Lutheran Social Services. Over the last year there has been much attention on the issue of refugee resettlement here in Manchester. Recently, there had been some very good articles in the *Union Leader* looking at some of the issues. It is my understanding that tonight you are going to be presented recommendations resulting from the city report on Refugee Resettlement in Manchester. You have also received a response which I would be glad to share with everybody...a response compiled by the Refugee Advisory Committee...a statewide coalition of people that have been charged with overseeing refugee resettlement. This information that I am referring to was compiled to increase your understanding of the refugee program by providing additional informational and clarifying further. We would ask that before voting on any recommendations put forth this evening that the Aldermen fully explore the issues which leave an accurate picture of the impact of refugee resettlement in the city. Please note that Lutheran Social Services as a resettlement agency is most interested in being pro-active working with the City of Manchester and craft an approach that works with the city to make refugee resettlement a positive experience for all involved. As you plan for what is best for Manchester I would encourage you to reflect upon the urban centers that are economically strong and culturally vibrant. They all seem to have one thing in common...by embracing diversity and utilizing it as a resource to power their economic success. According to the recent *Union Leader* article only two percent of people seeking city welfare here in Manchester are refugees...what do the rest of them do? Working in jobs often that natural born citizens don't apply for...paying taxes, opening businesses and feeling the economic success. I would like to introduce you to one such person Elvedina Cosic...she's here tonight to speak.

Elvedina Cosic, 383 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

We came here to Manchester in 1996 after the war in Bosnia. I would like to say a few things...I like to live in Manchester...you are the largest city in the area. First when I came here I started work at a pizza place and in 2000 I opened my own business and have two businesses right now...a hair salon and a restaurant...and I just wanted to thank you all for helping me. This is unbelievable and there are a thousand people who want to thank you for helping us...Manchester is a beautiful city. Thank you for everything.

Tracy Degges, 149 Cedar Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Omega Club) stated:

I want to tell you how proud I am of this city...we have new offices, providing businesses...with this club what are we saying to people who want to come to our city...ooh, nudie dancing...people have worked so hard...I am totally opposed to this and am totally opposed to Omega. After its liquor license was taken away now they're letting people bring in their own.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street #A, Manchester, NH (Re: Omega Club) stated:

The city needs to close adult entertainment. Our ordinances are not working for the benefit of our city. Bring your own booze bottle clubs was not meant for clubs under suspension or those that lost their liquor license. The city needs to close the loopholes with a city ordinance and to do that it needs to act now. It's all perfectly legal but with your help and support our city government leaders and we the people can change that to carry the real intent of the law as it was meant to in the first place. A bottle club was not intended for clubs having their liquor suspended or taken away because of bad behavior. Endangering the public safety or breaking the law...gunshots, killings, stabbing and people beatings have got to stop if we are to keep the lives of our children safe and this is what's at-hand here. We live in a neighborhood that is within a residence of this community. Clubs like the Omega and Envy cannot be allowed to go around the law after losing their liquor license for endangering bodily harm, serving the underage or an intoxicated person, for example. Now, Omega wants to start nude dancing in its bottle club establishment. We must, as a city, say no loud and clear. We the people of Manchester as citizens must show a peaceful presence as we have today at City Hall where we stood up and demanded the violence must stop and that nudity will not be allowed as entertainment. Again, if Manchester allows its moral quality of life issues to become destination for a sin city then the undesired people coming to our city will continue the spreading of an infectious disease against our quality of life. Our city leaders need not reward these kinds of behavior and I ask for your help here tonight. We need to stand up, be counted and listen with approval to the countless organizations and citizens from around the city who are against this proposal. Be concerned for the safety and future of our children...that should be number one. In doing so tell our elected officials that the fabric of city life in Manchester is under attack getting out of control...tell them as elected leaders the city must change the ordinance or rewrite them altogether if we are to nail shut the cover of this deadly coffin rearing its infectious ugly head around Manchester that endangers all of our safety and the moral quality of life as we know it. Our elected officials, our elect city fathers as leaders may have the final say on these important issues but the people must support them in their righteous decision by letting go of our past indifferences. In putting aside the politics (to be blunt) and in an non-partisan way coming together no matter what religious belief, national ethnicity or sexual orientation one may belong to...that we are united and stand together in this common cause to demand as a people living here in Manchester that we will not tolerate the continued destruction of our quality of life anymore. But, those who insist on doing business by way of revolving around the trafficking of drugs, creating a wild west of gunfire, stabbings and rapes are being put on notice that we the people will not allow it...that we as people will not allow this kind of fabric festering in our city. Thank you.

Mary Freeman-Croyle, 161 Pine Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Omega Club) stated:

I work for Friends of the Valley Cemetery and I'm here to speak about the sheer volume of garbage that is created by the club...it's patrons park on Auburn Street and I walk everyday to get my bus and pass by the cemetery and find bottles of booze, cigarette packs and god

knows what else. Over the fourth of July weekend we lost two monuments that were toppled over and it's a sad thing and it won't get any better.

Peter Arel, 259 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Omega Club) stated:

Under no circumstances to Omega be permitted nude dancing as that will undo all the hard work that has been done in Manchester to make this city a family-friendly community. I have read articles in the *Manchester Express* the new paper that's come out that says...there was an article in the *Union Leader* about it also that Omega has lost its liquor license and at the present time an intolerable situation prevails there of people bringing their own bottles of alcohol. Nude dancing would change the character of Manchester and family-friendly to family-hostile. We must not allow this to happen, ladies and gentlemen, you must not allow anything to come into Manchester that will change the city in a detrimental way. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta stated what I am going to do because it's seventy-thirty is call a recess of the public meeting. We will open up the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and do one quick presentation and then we'll come back to the special meeting because there are several members of the public that would like to speak. So, if you can be patient and stay with us I will call a recess now.

Mayor Guinta called the meeting back to order asking if we could please be mindful that we do have quite a long list so we do ask that you speak for the three minutes and do your very best not to go over so we can let everyone have the opportunity to speak.

Paul Searles, 3 Dow Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Omega Club) stated:

To give you a little background on myself I am with the Manchester Restoration Committee...we are involved with the restoration of the Valley Street Cemetery...I'm with the Manchester Neighborhood Watch, the Weed and Seed Committee. I like in housing and I live on the north end and where I live is I'm the one that speaks English the rest of them don't speak English at all. So, that Bosnian person that was here and to say I see them all the time they are around me...they're my neighbors...they speak another language and I don't understand them but to have a club come in and destroy what these people are trying to teach their children coming from a country that's been backward and then to put them into that backward society again I would feel would be wrong and I don't think this city should do something to that extent. We have our Manchester Neighborhood Housing in the downtown area all over and it's within blocks of the Omega and I don't think it would be appropriate site for our younger kids to grown up in that kind of environment in their backyard. I guess basically that is the most I have to say...it would not be an establishment that we'd want in Manchester and I would like to see Manchester create some more generational businesses that would last in this city and it would stay besides a few years and then leave, sell out. I

would like to see that happen and I don't think that's going to happen if we have those kinds of clubs around. Thank you.

Rebecca Vinson, 898 Plausawa Hill, (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

I am the Manger of Communications for the Lutheran Services Agency one of the two that works for the refugee resettlement and I just want to share with you just a couple of things that I have experienced. On Sunday's I go to the Protestant Church much like the Catholic nuns do for the Catholic Churches and what I find is the tremendous outpouring of support and I share with them the experience of...I was raised in Mobile, Alabama around a lot of poverty...we saw that on the television during the Katrina situation...very much poverty. Why does the country go to other countries to bring in people when we need to take care of our own. And, then I went to work for Lutheran Services and I met some refugees and now I understand...these are not people like immigrants, these are people seeking life itself...their lives are in jeopardy, danger...they are running away from situations and our government has screened them so thoroughly that it has been decided by the United States government that the quota of people that this country does allow...I see in this report on Refugee Resettlement the same confusion that I had...a lot of hard work, wonderful work but it still needs working. For instance, several of the inaccuracies that are in the report are ones that you would know such as the report says 2,316 English language learners and only 373 or 16% were refugees. There's so many inaccuracies and it's not intentional it's just a very, very confusing situation and you I know that once you understand your hearts are open...my recommendation is that we get together, come up with recommendations and there are some very simple recommendations and we want to do that. Thank you.

Tom Janosz, 74 Brook Street, Manchester, NH (Re: traffic problem at the intersection of Brook and Pine Streets) stated:

I am the owner and director of the Cain & Janosz Funeral Home at 74 Brook Street. I'm here this evening with a traffic problem that is on-going for many years on the corner of Brook and Pine Streets. I contacted a former Alderman of Ward, Timothy Reiniger many years ago regarding the safety concerns I have in this area regarding accidents. I most recently have been in contact with Alderman Patrick Long who has been most accommodating in returning my calls and taking a strong interest to the traffic problems. Only now it has escalated to so much so that my insurance company has been mentioning to me that I am averaging an accident every five to six weeks at this corner. On April 3rd is when this all started in 2006. The accident that happened on April 3rd was only seconds before I was standing changing a light on a lamp on my wall which is two feet high which is eight feet from the street. The lantern that I changed was run over by a utility van that was traveling east on Brook Street. Since that day my property has been hit by auto accidents four times. Since January of 2006 according to the Manchester Police Department, as of today, there have been 11 accidents on this corner all involving vehicles traveling east on Brook Street colliding with vehicles heading north on Pine Street. To date, the total damage on my property at 74 Brook Street is \$17,962. Estimates that I received from my insurance

company with regard to all 11 accidents would total \$165,000 worth of damage based on the average including personal injury totals could reach as high as \$300,000 or more. Having owned property on the corner of Brook and Pine since 1985 I have witnessed a major increase in traffic on both streets. With regard to the accidents on my property the motorists involved had mentioned to me that they only recently started using Brook Street from Commercial Street to avoid traffic elsewhere. In closing, what I recently found which was interesting about Pine Street at the intersection of Pine and Bridge heading north to Webster Street is 8/10's of a mile long. Oddly enough 4/10's of a mile is about at the corner of Brook and Pine Streets. I did a test in my own vehicle on the highway recently to see where my car would accelerate normally at 4/10's of a mile...around 45 to 50 miles per hour. But the average speed with probably most vehicles traveling...thank you this evening to let me speak in front of you and I hope this is a wake up for something about a dangerous situation at the corner of Brook and Pine Streets.

Richard Duckoff, 380 No. Bay Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated: I'm here tonight to ask the Board to try to reconsider at this last hour...there's only a number of days that remain when the Weston Street Fire Station is still going to be standing unless this Board takes some action. I can't believe that the will wasn't here to save the station because there's no sound reason...this isn't as though it's the railroad station, willows...a massive amount of property we're asking to save. It's the earliest fire station in the city that still exists in its original form...others have been changed and modified so you'd never know they were fire station but this is the only early one that exists in its original form and I would hope that the Board could see fit to consider that the testimony that's been given in the past by an attorney from Attorney Cook's law firm to structure a possible agreement that the city would not be just protected but almost overprotected from any loss that it could incur. I would hope that the will is here, I know the time is short...for somebody to step up even tonight to see if something can be done to reconsider the decision. Thank you very much.

Janet and Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester, NH (Re: West Fire Station): Mr. Stiles stated I'm here to talk about the Weston Fire Station...I'm here to save the fire station, it should be saved, it's an old relic of the City of Manchester. It's 104 years old...in fact in another 20 years come October 11th I'll be 104 years old.

Mayor Guinta jokingly interjected don't worry, Walter, we'll save you.

Mr. Stiles continued by stating I understand that \$100,000 or so has been set aside for the demolition of this fire station. I suggest we take \$100,000 to help restore the fire station and we've lost several fire stations in the City of Manchester...the Amory Fire Station, the Lake Avenue Fire Station, the Webster Fire Station and the Vine Street Fire Station and incidentally when I was at Straw School we used to walk down to the Vine Street Fire Station, the firemen would let us walk upstairs and slide down the brass rail and it was a lot of fun, really. We've also lost the Smyth Mansion up near what used to be the old New

Hampshire Insurance building and we've also lost the old Boston & Main Railroad Station, which was a pity to tear down also. So, all I want to do is get the message across. I don't know all of the legalities of it or anything else but I do know that the building should be restored and not torn down. Thank you.

Amy Ignatius, State Office of Energy and Planning, Concord, NH (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

I'm the Director of the Office of Energy and Planning for the State of New Hampshire and as you understand more when you review the report on Refugee Resettlement the Office of Energy and Planning contains within it the Coordinator of Refugee Services for the state...that person is Barbara Seebart who's also here tonight. Our office plays three roles in refugee resettlement and I just wanted to mention very briefly what they are and then offer ourselves to you in whatever context whether it's tonight in the second meeting or in a subsequent meeting to help in working through concerns the city has, ways in which we can improve services, ways in which our office can be of assistance and make myself available in whatever way would be best for all of you and for the city. The Office of Energy and Planning program regarding refugee resettlement is really three kinds of activities...the primary one is the pass through of funds. We obtain grants from a number of sources and then pass them on to people who are providing services and I'm happy to say that on Monday we received approval for another grant for refugee health for \$85,000 to go primary to the City of Manchester...\$50,000 will come to Manchester from that grant between Manchester Health Department and the Institute here in Manchester...that's a 3-year grant...\$85,000 per year...so good news in addition to other programs including the School Impact Grant that's \$125,000 that we obtained all of which comes to Manchester...that's a 5-year grant so we've got one down, four to go. We're exploring other grant opportunities, we may be able to bring additional money...so that is part of what we do and the bulk of what we do. Another important function is the Refugee Advisory Council which we are empowered to conduct...it meets quarterly, managed by our office...it is a good clearinghouse for information that we know that we can pass on to all of the providers...the providers of services can bring back and discuss common problems, cities that have concerns, state and community leaders can bring them to those meetings and so if anyone has not been a part of those and would like to we urge you to get involved and find other ways if you're not able to attend our meetings to be able to share information that we get. We e-mail out what we get from those meetings back to the city and to other if they aren't able to attend but we could formalize that more if that would be of assistance because it's a good clearinghouse. The final thing we do is to perform a liaison role with the people in Washington, the State Department and the Office of Refugee Resettlement and we're able to make recommendations for changes to the program when we see that there are needs for that. We have done so at times when requested and have been listened to. We could do that in this case if there are issues that the city brings to our attention that we think we can bring down to Washington and discuss with them and so that in all of these issues the more communication there is I think the better we'll be and we stand ready to help the city in

dealing with all of these issues which are significant but can bring great enhancement to the city, to the community, to the refugees who are here and to the state as a whole. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta stated I am going to entertain just one question of clarification from Alderman Gatsas.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you explain to me if we in Manchester have 80% of the refugees why we don't receive 80% of the grant?

Ms. Ignatius replied there are many, many grant programs and I can get you real numbers...that's just a small amount.

Alderman Gatsas stated just that small amount is my question...why don't we get 80% of it...like \$68,000 instead of \$50,000?

Ms. Ignatius replied it's split up among Lutheran Social Services which gets a portion, the Institute and the city...how those got divided I don't know but I think the larger picture of it is all of the grant programs we ought to get you that data in one place because there's so many different programs so you can really see how the funds work.

Douglas Chamberlain, 1425 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

I am here to appeal to the Board do whatever is immediately required to permit the preservation of the Weston Firehouse. I've lived and/or worked in this city for about 30 years and during that time and obviously before then we've seen a lot of great architectural and historical monuments go by the wayside including as was mentioned a number of splendid old firehouses...my personal favorite was the one on Webster Street. And, so we have an opportunity here I think to preserve a part of a neighborhood and a part of the community in a way that we have sometimes not done in the past. Is this one of the greatest architectural monuments ever to grace this fair city fairly it's not but it is part of the historical and architectural context of this city and of the neighborhood in which it sits. Clearly as a taxpayer I would not like to see this building become or continue to be a public charge and if I were a resident of the neighborhood, the immediate neighborhood which I'm not and as a person with an interest in architectural and historical preservation it would serve no one's person to permit the continued decay and degeneration of the building until it becomes a health and safety hazard and simply falls into the ground, but it's my understanding that an opportunity exists, a viable, practical opportunity to preserve the firehouse and although such arrangements can be fraught with problems and risks and difficulties and perhaps the old high school at the corner of Chestnut Street and Lowell Street maybe a little bit of a cautionary tale in that regard...it's my understanding that there are going to be safeguards in place and that there is a possibility to make this project work and minimize if not reduce costs to the city and actually restore this property to the tax rolls...it

sounds like a win/win situation for everyone concerned. So, I would ask your consideration in that regard. Thank you.

John David Heinzmann, 585 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

I'm here also to encourage you to bring the firehouse back to its historic condition. My wife and I own a house two blocks down from the firehouse...the house was built in the same period, it's built solid, it's built strong...being built in the same period I know that that firehouse was also built strong...come on it's a firehouse. There's been talk that it's ready to fall down, it's not falling down...it has some damage but a building built the way buildings of those days were built...I want this firehouse brought back to its glory because I want another building in the neighborhood that is as grand as our house is...the house we've been working on for the last seven years. I encourage you to come look at our house. I would like to point out that the house has been painted by Michael Duffy the man who is proposing to restore the firehouse, so come take a look at his work. I have really two reasons that I want to state as to why I want the firehouse restored. One is personal...I would like to have, as I said, a house of the same grandness that we're working on. I want you to come and look at our house because it looks like a million bucks and there's two reasons why it looks like a million bucks...one is Michael Duffy, the other is it's old, the firehouse is old too. It's made of materials that people would never consider using today...old growth timbers I'm sure exist in the firehouse, big solid rocks, big rocks...who uses big rocks to build a house anymore...copper, slate...these types of things and it has beautiful classic architecture. If we tear this firehouse down those features and those materials will be gone forever. We don't design our buildings like that anymore and we don't build them in that fashion anymore. It will cost the city a bunch of money to tear it down...it will cost the city nothing to let Michael and David restore it, it will bring tax money into the city as a private residence and we will have another house to rival the grandeur and quality of ours and help to continue the restoration of our neighborhood. I urge you to reverse your decision on the demolition and allow it to live. Thank you very much.

Terry Heinzmann, 585 Belmont Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

The gentleman who spoke before me is my husband with whom I probably should have coordinated before I sat down here...he actually said most of what I want to say. One thing I'd like to add, however, to what he said is the other reason our house is looking the way it's looking is because of him and his commitment to bringing our house back up to like what it used to be and I'm thinking...let me just say that I am fairly new to Manchester and the things that I've heard so far lead me to believe that instead of preserving what we have as a wonderful heritage what we do here in the city is in fact tear it down. I think that this group has a unique opportunity to turn that around so that you become a part of Manchester's history that we are proud of, that in fact you leave a legacy that Manchester is proud of and I really do believe that this firehouse is something we can preserve, that we can be proud of it...will beautify not only our neighborhood but the whole city and urge you to reconsider

and keep it standing and turn it back over to the citizens, let us clean it up and let us turn the tide. So, please do reconsider. Thank you very much.

Erin Kerwin, 291 Ray Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station)...was not present.

Michael Duffy, 367 Concord Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

I would like to add my voice to those who have spoken so eloquently about saving the Weston Street Firehouse. I'd like to use a story as an example of why I think it's important for my past. For years I worked in Portsmouth with a bunch of guys in the old house business and I used to talk about Manchester and I could see them visibly winch and say oh, Manchester...so, it's so dreary and I said no you don't understand Manchester is full of magnificent buildings, wonderful neighborhoods and splendid people. We've heard about some of the people, the refugees and the immigrants that make up the community that we live in. And, I think that saving the Weston Street Firehouse is one of those things that we can do to make Manchester, New Hampshire the kind of place that Portsmouth already is, a place that has learned from its past mistakes and that has decided that its legacy is important enough to preserve. I'm passionate about this issue, it's my background, but it's also my reality. I've waked up and down the streets of my neighborhood met several of my neighbors...new and old...who really want this firehouse to be saved. I've not heard many voices at all who are interested in tearing it down. I visited the building and I've seen nothing wrong with it that someone who cares couldn't fix. In the past I've talked about the morality of honoring our forebearers by preserving what they've left us as an inheritance and I would beg you to reconsider the decision to demolish the Weston Street firehouse and preserve it for the future. Thank you very much.

Brad Cook, 150 Heather Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:

An attorney at Sheehan, Phinney Bass & Green and I've been practicing law here for 30 years and I think I know all of you...I represent the parties who want to save the Weston Street Firehouse and it formed the 1902 Firehouse Trust. We've submitted two different proposals to the city to save this historic building...to restore it and to put it back on the tax rolls. I'm here tonight to express my disappointment in the fact that although individually members of the Board and especially the Mayor have been gracious and met with us and talked to us about it and expressed support and encouragement. We've had no opportunity to sit down and negotiate with the city or any group in the city to try to come up with a proposal that would implement saving of the firehouse. Rather, members of this Board have declared this structure unsavable without allowing the investigation to process the proposal in our letter of proposal. In the brief time I have tonight I am asking you to save this structure which presently is scheduled to be demolished on or about the 24th of July by taking the following two actions under your new business agenda. One, authorize the Lands and Buildings Committee to meet with us to negotiate terms as proposed in our latest letter if those are not acceptable. We've made suggestions...we're willing to negotiate, we're willing to talk about them. Two...if an agreement is reached or looks like it's going to be

reached authorize the Mayor if the Mayor needs authorization to delay the demolition for sufficient time so that we can institute the actions that we seek to save this historic structure. When it's gone, it's gone. In my 34 years of dealing with the city I think this is the first time that the city has appeared unwilling to negotiate or discuss terms that could lead to an agreement for what most, if not all parties agree is a good goal. I am sure that has not been anybody's intent that's what's happened...we haven't had the chance. I ask you to correct that tonight.

Jon Stevens, 58 Mechanic Street #5, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:
I am here to express my desire to save the Weston Fire Station and would appreciate your doing so.

Haris Tuco, 181 Portsmouth Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: Refugee Report) stated:
I'm just going to use this opportunity to exercise my right as a citizen and resident of Manchester...the first time to express my gratitude. I have been here since 1997 and also to ask you to support the program because in any city or any country that affords those who don't have any place to live are probably guaranteed to be one of those thousands of very important cities in this country and world. I came here to this city in 1997 with two bags and \$400 in my wallet and I came here and within two months I found a job with broken English...I decided to continue my school that I couldn't do in my country. I finished college here by going part-time and I work full-time so I was doing two things at the same time and I'm speaking on behalf of all those who cannot come here tonight because of the language or because they don't know what's happening tonight. But, tonight is an important thing to think of the program that you need to decide on. So, this is all I have to say so thank you again and please continue with this program.

Jolene Greer, 669 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:
I am here to ask you save the firehouse also. I live in Ward 3...don't even live close to it, however, I go see my friend...I go down that street, I bike down that street. I am tired of what has happened for me and living here in the last five years as I've seen the kind of these buildings...I work in an historic building, I live in one and I've seen what good property management can do for a building and I'm also seeing what poor property management can do and part of the reason why I am so passionate about this firehouse is that the people are going to care for it, who are willing to restore it because I too have seen the incredible work and I do urge you go see the Heinzmann house it is one of the gems in Manchester, it's gorgeous and to be able to actually get another one of those buildings in that neighborhood it's a bargain. To not do this would be just tragic and we urge you to reconsider. Thank you.

Lisa Hickman, 564 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Fire Station) stated:
I don't have a long speech but I'd also like the firehouse on Weston Street to be saved. I feel that the least that could be done is to postpone the demolition, do further studies if that's necessary, it's seems like there are very good, viable plans that could be made for the

firehouse and I believe our city's motto is where "History Invites Opportunity" and I feel that we shouldn't eliminate any more of our history, that we should preserve our history which is a big part of our city. Thank you.

Sr. Peggy Crosby representing Thom Blonski who is President and CEO of NH Catholic Charities, 215 Myrtle Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Refugee Report) stated:

I am the Director of Immigration and Refugees and I just wanted to say a few words to following up what has already been said. The report who you were enlightened about I think one of the areas that I think that we need to figure out what we do from here and we have a group already known as GMSSA (Greater Manchester Social Service Agencies) who working with you as the Mayor and as the Aldermen could, I am sure felt appropriate those refugees today do follow-up after their eighth month. Our office was doing resettlement but we changed it and are now doing immigration because we are trying to do a follow-up for those that are refugees. The refugees must follow and apply for the legal permanent residency...that is what our office does. Last year we have had to increase staff members in order to assist these young men, these older men who are wanting to become legal citizens. So, that is the role of Catholic Charities. Any way that we can assist we will be happy to.

Mayor Guinta. asked is there anyone else wishing to speak. For you, Walter, anytime.

Mr. Walter Stiles stated I just wanted to say that Mr. Weston for whom the fire station is named was a four-time Mayor of the City of Manchester and a two-time Governor of the State of New Hampshire and if we set it up so that the legalities are made so that there can be a 501-C Corporation my wife and I would like to start the drive off with a \$500 contribution.

Mayor Guinta stated thank you.

Mr. Peter Leonard stated I forgot to say when I was on the School Board I asked the same question as you Aldermen were asking on the budget...the principals list what they do need for the budget...when I asked I asked three times for it and I never got it. The way they should do it is patch it to the main budget so you know what each school wants. The School Board members should realize if the drugs go into the lower classes they've got a right to fire the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendents.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Duval, duly seconded by Alderman Roy it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk